

Time Commitment

- Mentors are matched with a student for one year.
- Meetings must occur twice a month at minimum.
- Mentors are also asked to assist the student and family with transportation arrangements for camp activities during the summer months.
- One mentor orientation session prior to the first meeting with a mentee.

Mentoring is a way of...

- ✓ Fostering a child's development
- ✓ Developing a child's self-esteem
- ✓ Helping a child set and reach his/her goals
- ✓ Encouraging a child
- ✓ Listening and communicating
- ✓ Sharing your time, talents, and yourself with others
- ✓ Showing a child someone cares
- ✓ Being a friend, a role model, and a teacher



"In a way the most tragic years for inner city kids are the years from fourth to sixth grade...Those are the years in which the dream dies."

Jonathan Kozol, author



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Youth Enrichment Scholarship



Mentoring
Makes a
Difference for
a Young Child



YES is a cooperative effort of the Gillett Family, the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and the Grand Rapids Public Schools.

The Program

Summer and extra-curricular experiences help children to develop skills, provide continuity in learning, and broaden horizons!

Students in select Grand Rapids Public Schools are matched with a mentor and receive \$400 each year from 4th through 8th grade to choose summer enrichment experiences such as day or overnight camp, sports, music, computer camp.

Since 1993 over 200 students have taken part in YES Camp opportunities. Since 2001, thirty-nine YES Students have received \$1000 to \$1500 renewable college scholarships offered to students who successfully completed their high school studies.



Summer Activities

From June through August, the time spent mentoring will largely depend on the activities selected by the student.

If activities are local and require transportation, the mentor may need to spend time helping the parent to make arrangements for car pools. A master schedule of all YES Students and the camps they are attending is provided each spring to assist with car pool arrangements.

If the student attends overnight camp, the mentor may be asked to assist with acquiring necessary supplies or driving the student and parent to the camp.

Much will depend on the child's needs and the mentor's available time.

Group Outings

A number of opportunities to meet as a group are planned throughout the year.

- Spring: Camp enrollment information and sign-up
- Spring: Orientation meeting for new mentors and students
- Early Summer: Planned group outing such as a trip to a museum or arts event
- Fall: Group activity—usually a picnic in early September

All admission fees for group activities are covered by the YES Program.



Additional Activities

The YES Program, as a member of the Kent County Mentoring Collaborative, provides free monthly activities that matches are encouraged to attend.

Typically, students enjoy any opportunity you can offer. The student's exposure to the vast resources of the community and how to access them, particularly those that are free or of low-cost, is an important part of the program.

Parents



One of the program goals is to encourage parent comfort with procedures and accessing information about opportunities and resources for their children. The mentor's primary concern is for the student. However, the mentor should attempt to encourage parent

involvement in decision making as much as possible. After the first two years of scholarship opportunities, the hope is that the family will continue to seek programs for the child during the last three years of camp opportunities.

Background Check

Any mentor who is not an employee of the Grand Rapids Public Schools is required to complete a Grand Rapids Public Schools police screening/background check authorization form.

Evaluation

Each mentor will be asked to complete a brief survey about the program and his/her experience.

Termination

Mentors are asked to make a one-year commitment to the program. Additional contact with the student is encouraged but not required.

If at any time the mentor must terminate the relationship prior to the end of the first year, he or she must contact the program coordinator. Together, the mentor and the coordinator will determine the best way to terminate or transition the relationship. The program coordinator has the authority to terminate the mentor/student relationship at any time deemed necessary by the program coordinator.